U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
73544 Hwy 64
Meeker, CO 81641

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-110-2005-088-EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COD-035705

PROJECT NAME: Pipeline from T87X-3G to Love Ranch Compression Facility

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T.2S R.97W
sec. 3, 4 S ½
sec. 9 NW ¼
6th P.M

APPLICANT: ExxonMobil Oil Corporation

ISSUES AND CONCERNS: A portion of the proposed pipeline route would cross within the boundary of the existing Dudley Bluffs Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Proposed Action: The applicant proposes to install two buried steel pipelines (16"gas & 4" water) in the same trench for approximately 10,000' on BLM utilizing a 50' right of way (ROW). Burial depth would range from 3' to 5', depending on terrain and frost depth. The single trench width would be 48". Top soil would be rolled to one side of the trench and kept separate from the spoil. Vegetation would be collected along one side of the route and spread back over the route upon reclamation. Total surface disturbance on BLM would be approximately 11.5 acres.

The proposed pipeline route would be constructed through an existing ACEC for approximately 2,400'. An additional communications cable would be installed in the same trench through the ACEC. A small metal box (approx. 2' H x 8" square) would be placed at each end of the cable outside the ACEC. Approximately 2,200' of construction would follow an existing road within the ACEC, and approximately 200' would be new disturbance.

New construction would also occur for approximately 3800' from the boundary of the ACEC to the well pad #T36-3G. The remainder of the construction would follow an existing pipeline route and access road from well #T36-3G to well pad T87X-3G. The proposed gathering lines would require above ground cathodic test stations to monitor effectiveness of the cathodic

protection. The test stations would be placed within the designated corridor at one-mile intervals, and on either side of a road crossing.

A primary equipment staging area would be located on private property. A temporary laydown/staging area would utilize an existing well pad and would not require additional disturbance. Waterbreaks would be constructed as per Figure 10 found on page 34 of the BLM document *Surface Operating Standards for Oil and Gas Exploration and Development*, and seeding would be as specified by the BLM.

The existing two-track road along the route would be reclaimed to original contours and seeded with native vegetation. Upon construction completion, the fence to the east of Rio Blanco County (RBC) road 5 would be extended to prevent motorized traffic along the pipeline route.

No Action Alternative: There would be no construction, no new surface disturbance, and hydrocarbon reserves would not be developed.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD: Another longer route around ACEC boundary that would increase the total disturbance on BLM lands.

NEED FOR THE ACTION: To respond to request by applicant to exercise lease rights and develop and market hydrocarbon reserves.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

> Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).
>
> Date Approved: July 1, 1997
>
> Decision Number/Page: Pages 2-5 thru 2-6
>
> Decision Language: Make federal oil and gas resources available for leasing and development in a manner that provides reasonable protection for other resource values.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. These standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in an environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements listed below:

CRITICAL ELEMENTS

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: The Piceance Creek basin has been designated a Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) class II air quality area by the state. The proposed actions will not compromise National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate mater which calls for a maximum 24-hour average to be less than or equal to 150 µg/m³.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Construction of the pipeline on new and previously disturbed areas will reduce ground cover leaving soils exposed to eolian processes. As a result a temporary increase in particulate mater (fugitive dust) will occur until reclamation is complete.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: Strictly adhere to reclamation procedures as stated in the proposed action.

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Affected Environment: The proposed pipeline route traverses the Dudley Bluffs ACEC, which was established by the BLM on 13 March 1987. This area contains habitat suitable for two federally listed threatened plants, the Dudley Bluffs bladderpod (*Lesquerella congesta*), and the Piceance twinpod (*Physaria obcordata*). The proposed construction corridor in and outside the ACEC occurs primarily within an upland pasture, sagebrush prairie, and pinyon-juniper woodland. From RBC road 5 to well #T36-3G, the pipeline route was selected in a manner that would avoid impacts to any potential suitable habitat. The sagebrush prairie located at the base of Dudley Gulch is heavily vegetated and does not contain areas of exposed, barren shale. Additionally, the construction corridor through this area will be centered on an existing two-track for approximately 2,200 feet, which will effectively minimize any new disturbance. The route then continues outside the ACEC through the same habitat identified above as reported by PBS&J.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: PBS&J was contracted to do an environmental study in March 2005 for a Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive (TES) plant inventory and to evaluate their suitable habitat. The report assesses the present status and distribution of the important ecological elements that make this ACEC unique and evaluates potential impacts. This ACEC was designated with a No Surface Occupancy (NSO) stipulation as part of the White River ROD/RMP in July 1997 to protect threatened, endangered and rare plant species. The applicant obtained their lease December 27, 1939 and designated the area as the Piceance Creek Unit at the same time. The NOS stipulation does not apply to pre-existing leases and further, the stipulation allows for exceptions by the Field Manager if the action would not directly or indirectly affect the identified important values of the ACEC. Based on the

results of the habitat evaluation the proposed pipeline will not affect the values maintained by this ACEC.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: Reclamation of surface disturbance resulting from authorized activities within ACEC's and RVAs shall use only locally gathered or genetic stock from locally gathered, native species. When locally gathered native species are not available, the impact of using non-local native species on the genetic integrity of the ACEC's and RVAs must be analyzed and mitigated through a site-specific environmental analysis.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed pipeline route has been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level with no cultural resources identified in the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed pipeline would not impact any known cultural resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to cultural resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: 1.The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- Whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- The mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- A timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: There are no known noxious weeds along the proposed pipeline route. The invasive alien cheatgrass is present in the bottom of Dudley Gulch along the proposed pipeline route.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action will create about 12 acres of earthen disturbance, providing safe sites for the establishment of noxious weeds and cheatgrass. Application of the mitigation will insure minimal negative impacts as a result of the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There will be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: Promptly recontour and revegetate all disturbed areas with Native Seed Mix #3 and eradicate all noxious weeds and invasive plants using materials and methods approved in advance by the Field Manager. The operator will be responsible for monitoring the occurrence of noxious and invasive species for a minimum of five years post construction.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: An array of migratory birds fulfills nesting functions in the project area's basin big sagebrush and pinyon-juniper woodland communities from late May through early August. Species associated with these shrubland and woodland communities are typical and widely represented in the Resource Area and region. Those bird populations identified as having higher conservation interest (i.e., Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Partners in Flight program) are confined to woodland communities and include gray flycatcher, pinyon jay, juniper titmouse, black-throated gray warbler, and violet-green swallow. These birds, too, are well distributed at appropriate densities in this Resource Area's extensive like-habitats.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Project construction would be initiated in May 2005 with completion anticipated by late June 2005. As scheduled, this project would be conducted during the migratory bird nesting season. This project would tend to adversely influence few nesting territories of woodland associated birds. In the case of the early nesting pinyon jay, these birds are typically finished nesting by May and therefore would likely not be affected by pipeline construction activity. The majorities of the woodlands affected, are immediately adjacent to maintained well field roads or are represented by open-canopied ridgeline situations with poorly developed, shale-dominated ground cover-situations that depress breeding bird densities. BLM surveys conducted on off-road segments of the pipeline in early May 2005 noted territory involvement of 2 black-throated gray warblers, 1 dusky flycatcher, and 1 chipping sparrow in the woodlands and 2 blue-gray gnatcatchers and 1 spotted towhee in the basin big sagebrush bottom. Although early in the nesting sequence, this list is likely indicative of those birds that would be involved during construction. It is unlikely that more than 1 or 2

nesting attempts by birds of higher conservation interest would be disrupted by the proposed action.

The redistribution of cleared woody material across the right-of-way may aid in accelerating the redevelopment of shrubs as foraging and nesting substrate for migratory birds.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would have potential to disrupt migratory bird nest activity.

Mitigation: Woody material cleared from the right-of-way should be redistributed across the right-of-way after conventional recontouring and seeding practices have been completed.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE ANIMAL SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: There are no threatened or endangered animals that are known to inhabit or derive important benefit from the project vicinity.

The pipeline intersects about 8000 feet of pinyon-juniper woodland, of which about 3700 feet presumably possesses sufficiently well developed woodland structure to offer potential as nest or roost habitat for northern goshawk and 3 bats (i.e., fringed and Yuma myotis, Thompson's big-eared) that are included on BLM's sensitive species list. Woodland nest surveys conducted in early May by a BLM biologist revealed no indications of past or recent accipiter nesting activity within a minimum 500 feet of the proposed corridor. The roosts and hibernacula of the bats are almost solely associated with caves, buildings, and underground mines; woodland roost sites are expected to offer only limited day roost opportunity during the spring through fall months. There is some evidence to suggest that bat roost trees may be more often situated within the interior of stands rather than on the stand margins—a criterion that would further reduce the likelihood of bats occupying these woodlands, since only about 1100 linear feet of the proposed alignment does not parallel existing road corridors or is not situated along woodland margins (i.e., ridgeline break between woodland and barren slope).

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would have no conceivable influence on animals listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Approximately 9 acres of mixed woodlands would be cleared, half of which involves widening an existing road corridor by 50 feet and the other half situated along the crest of a narrow ridgeline. Although the potential for goshawk nest activity in close proximity to maintained well-field roads and ridgeline crests is remote, BLM inventoried affected woodland stands for functional nest sites in May 2005. No evidence of woodland raptor nest activity was found.

Considering the nearly 250,000 acres of pinyon-juniper woodland in Piceance Basin, the narrow widening of pre-existing corridors or setting back of existing woodland margins is unlikely to have any substantive influence on the availability of bat roost substrate or the suitability of

stands for bat roosting activity. Limiting linear woodland clearing through contiguous stands to about 1 acre on a narrow ridgeline crest is considered a habitat incursion of insignificant consequence. Alternative pipeline alignments would likely elevate the probability of increasing the areal extent of mature woodland clearing as well as the likelihood of bisecting interiors of larger contiguous woodland stands.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would have any further influence on woodland habitats that may serve as nest or roost habitat for BLM sensitive species.

Mitigation: Cleared woody material should be evenly scattered along the row after customary recontouring and seeding are finalized.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: Although it is likely that this project locale has a relatively low potential to support special status animals, the area currently meets the standards for mature woodland associates. Woodland clearing attributable to pipeline installation has been planned to parallel existing forms of disturbance as much as possible, thereby minimizing functional losses in habitat utility and extent. Surveys that have been conducted to ensure that current year nesting attempts and functional nest sites of woodland raptors would not be involved. With the application of resource provisions (e.g., reclamation, vehicle deterrents), the proposed action would have negligible cumulative influence on the functional capacity of habitats to support goshawk and roosting bats and would therefore allow for continued meeting of this land health standard.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE PLANT SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: Based on geologic mapping, barren shale outcrops associated with the Uinta and Green River formations offer habitat potentially suited for the federally threatened Dudley Bluffs bladderpod (*Lesquerella congesta)* and Piceance twinpod *(Physaria obcordata),* and two Penstemons that are candidates for federal listing (i.e., Graham's penstemon, *P. grahamii;* White River penstemon*, P. scariosus* var. *albifluvis*). These linear habitat features are distributed such that potential pipeline alignments between ExxonMobil's T36-3G well and the compressor site in the Piceance Creek valley would have a high likelihood of intersecting these narrow bands of potential TES plant habitat. BLM's concern for plant impacts prompted ExxonMobil to contract with the environmental contractor, PBS&J, to perform a TES habitat evaluation of the general project area with the purpose of identifying a pipeline route that would avoid the involvement of any habitat affiliated with special status plants, including the 4 federally listed and candidate species, and 3 BLM sensitive species: debris milkvetch, Utah gentian, and Piceance bladderpod.

The results of this study are on file at the BLM's White River Field Office, Meeker, CO, and indicate that the 50-foot pipeline corridor identified as BLM's proposed action (including an additional 25-foot buffer either side of centerline) does not involve any habitat considered suitable for these TES plants. That portion of the pipeline corridor on private lands in the

Piceance Creek valley are composed of introduced grasses that are seasonally pastured and hayed and offer no habitat suitable for occupation by TES plants. The pipeline segment within the Dudley Gulch drainage parallels and incorporates 2200' of existing two-track road. Heavy canopies of basin big sagebrush and rubber rabbitbrush characterize this valley reach, with no display of exposed, barren shale substrate that would provide suitable habitat conditions for TES plants. The remaining portion of the pipeline corridor traverses a ridgeline pinyon-juniper woodland community with a poorly developed understory. Although the ground surface beneath these woodland canopies has a considerable barren component, exposed soils were found to be coarse in texture and dark yellowish-brown to brown in color and do not represent the light, barren shales associated with TES plant habitat in Piceance Basin.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Based on investigations of the project area by PBS&J, habitat potentially affected within and adjacent to the proposed pipeline corridor are not suitable for occupation by the listed Dudley Bluffs bladderpod and Piceance twinpod, federal candidate Graham's penstemon and White River penstemon, or BLM sensitive species. The proposed action would have no conceivable influence on plants listed or candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: See ACEC mitigation.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: There is no reasonable likelihood that the proposed action or no action alternative would have an influence on the condition or function of Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive plant species. Thus there would be no effect on achieving the land health standard.

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: There are no known hazardous or other solid wastes on the subject lands. No hazardous materials are known to have been used, stored or disposed of at sites included in the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: No listed or extremely hazardous materials in excess of threshold quantities are proposed for use in this project. While commercial preparations of fuels and lubricants proposed for use may contain some hazardous constituents, they would be stored, used and transported in a manner consistent with applicable laws, and the generation of hazardous wastes would not be anticipated. Solid wastes would be properly disposed of.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No hazardous or other solid wastes would be generated under the no-action alternative.

Mitigation: The applicant shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by the proposed actions.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: The proposed action is in the Dudley Bluff North and Dudley Bluff, watersheds which are tributary to Piceance Creek and the White River. The State of Colorado identifies this watershed in segment 16, which is all tributaries to Piceance Creek, including all wetlands, lakes and reservoirs from the source to the confluence with the White River except for specific listings in segments 17-20.

A review of the Colorado's 1989 Nonpoint Source Assessment Report (plus updates), the 305(b) report, the 303(d) list and the Unified Watershed Assessment was done to see if any water quality concerns have been identified. The State has classified this segment as a "Use Protected" reach. Its designated beneficial uses are: Warm Aquatic Life 2, Recreation 2, and Agriculture. The antidegredation review requirements in the Antidegredation Rule are not applicable to waters designated use-protected. For those waters, only the protection specified in each reach will apply. For this reach, minimum standards for three parameters have been listed. These parameters are: dissolved oxygen = 5.0 mg/l, pH = 6.5 - 9.0, Fecal Coliform = 2000/100 ml, and 630/100 ml E. coli. This segment retained its Recreation Class 2 designation after sufficient evidence was received that a Recreation Class 1a use was unattainable.

The hydrologic regime for the Dudley Bluff drainages is typical of ephemeral drainages in the Piceance Basin. Typically these drainages flow in direct response to snowmelt and late summer rainstorms. Water quality of precipitation is generally of good quality but can have elevated suspended sediment concentrations due to runoff from roadbeds and barren slopes.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Construction of the proposed pipeline will result in temporary exposure of soils to erosional processes. Removal of ground cover would likely increase erosive potential due to runoff and raindrop impact during storm events.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: Reclaim entire disturbed areas as stated in proposed actions. Additional mitigation practices such as surface pipelines or biodegradable netting are recommended for grades exceeding 70 percent (35º slope) and retaining less than 50 percent ground cover following construction. Utilization of biodegradable netting will help mitigate erosive impacts by wind, rain and overland flows on steep exposed slopes. Construction of a surface pipeline will reduce surface disturbance at these locations. Pipeline shall have a minimum burial depth of no less than four feet in all alluvial/poorly consolidated colluvial material as stated in the White River ROD/RMP.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: The water quality within the area of the proposed action currently meets water quality standards established by the state. With proper mitigation, the proposed actions should not compromise existing water quality.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:

No flood plains, prime and unique farmlands, riparian or wetland systems, Wilderness, or Wild and Scenic Rivers exist within the area affected by the proposed action. Furthermore, there is no reasonable likelihood that the proposed action or no action alternative would have an influence on whether riparian or wetland habitats would meet the Public Land Health Standard. Because the proposed and no-action alternatives would have no reasonable probability of influencing intermittent or perennial systems that are capable of supporting riparian or wetland communities, application of the land health standard is not applicable. There are also no Native American religious or environmental justice concerns associated with the proposed action.

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

The following elements **must** be addressed due to the involvement of Standards for Public Land Health:

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: The following data is a product of an order III soil survey conducted by the NRCS. The accompanying table highlights important soil characteristics. A complete summary of this information can be found at the White River Field Office.

Soil Number	Soil Name	Slope	Ecological site	Salinity	Run Off	Erosion Potential	Bedrock
6	Barcus channery loamy sand	2-8%	Foothills Swale	<2	Slow	Moderate	>60
33	Forelle loam	3-8%	Rolling Loam	<2	Medium	Moderate	>60
70	Redcreek-Rentsac complex	5-30%	PJ woodlands/PJ woodlands	<2	Very high	Moderate to high	10-20
73	Rentsac channery loam	5-50%	Pinyon-Juniper woodlands	<2	Rapid	Mod to very high	10-20
91	Torriorthents-Rock Outcrop complex	15-90%	Stoney Foothills		Rapid	Very high	10-20

6-Barcus channery loamy sand is a deep, somewhat excessively drained soil which occurs primarily on alluvial fans and in narrow valleys. It formed in alluvium derived from calcareous sandstone and shale. Areas are fan shaped, triangular, or elongated and are 20 to 100 acres. The native vegetation is mainly low shrubs and grasses. Effective rooting depth is 60 inches or more. Typically, the surface layer is pale brown channery loamy sand 6 inches thick. The upper part of the underlying material is light yellowish brown channery sand 10 inches thick, and the lower part to a depth of 60 inches or more is stratified, light yellowish brown and pale brown very channery sand and very channery loamy fine sand. The soil is calcareous throughout. In some areas the surface layer is channery fine sandy loam or channery sand.

Included in this unit are small areas of Glendive fine sandy loam and Havre loam. Also included are small areas of moderately deep Torriorthents and areas of soils that have a cobble surface layer. Included areas make up about 15 percent of the total acreage. Most areas of this unit are used for livestock grazing and wildlife habitat. However, this unit is also well suited for use as road fill.

33-Forelle loam is a deep, well drained soil that occurs on terraces and uplands. It formed in eolian and alluvial material derived dominantly from sedimentary rock. Areas are irregular in shape and are 20 to 600 acres in size. The native vegetation is mainly low shrubs and grasses. Effective rooting depth is 60 inches or more. Typically, the surface layer is pale brown loam 4 inches thick. The upper 12 inches of the subsoil is yellowish brown clay loam, and the lower 5 inches is light yellowish brown loam. The substratum to a depth of 60 inches or more is very pale brown loam.

Included in this unit are small areas of Patent loam, Piceance fine sandy loam, Work loam, Yamac loam, and Zoltay clay loam. Included areas make up about 15 percent of the total acreage. The percentage varies from one area to another.

If this unit is used for urban development, the main limitations are low soil strength, the potential for shrinking and swelling, and the hazard of frost action. The possibility of settlement can be minimized by compacting the building site before construction is begun. If buildings are constructed on this unit, properly designing foundations and footings and diverting runoff away from buildings helps to prevent structural damage due to shrinking and swelling. Access roads should be designed to provide adequate cut-slope grade, and drains are needed to control surface runoff and keep soil losses to a minimum.

70-Redcreek-Rentsac complex occurs on mountainsides and ridges. Areas are elongated and are 40 to 300 acres. The native vegetation is mainly pinyon and juniper trees with an understory of shrubs and grasses. Effective rooting depth is 10 to 20 inches. This unit is 60 percent Redcreek sandy loam and 30 percent Rentsac channery loam. The components of this unit are so intricately intermingled that it was not practical to map them separately at the scale used.

Included in this unit are small areas of Forelle loam, Piceance fine sandy loam, and Yamac loam. Also included are small areas of Rock outcrop and soils that are similar to these Redcreek and Rentsac soils but are 20 to 40 inches deep to bedrock. Included areas make up about 10 percent of the total acreage. The percentage varies from one area to another.

The Redcreek soil is shallow and well drained. It formed in residual and eolian material derived dominantly from sandstone. Typically, the surface layer is brown sandy loam about 4 inches thick. The next layer is brown, calcareous sandy loam about 7 inches thick. The underlying material is very pale brown, calcareous channery loam 5 inches thick. Hard sandstone is at a depth of 16 inches. Depth to hard sandstone or hard shale ranges from 10 to 20 inches.

The Rentsac soil is shallow and well drained. It formed in residuum derived dominantly from sandstone. Typically, the upper part of the surface layer is grayish brown channery loam about 5 inches thick. The next layer is brown very channery loam about 4 inches thick. The underlying

material is very pale brown extremely flaggy loam 7 inches thick. Hard sandstone is at a depth of 16 inches. Depth to hard sandstone or hard shale ranges from 10 to 20 inches.

73-Rentsac channery loam is a shallow, well drained soil that occurs primarily on ridges, foothills, and side slopes. It formed in residuum derived dominantly from calcareous sandstone. Areas are elongated and are 200 to 5,000 acres. The native vegetation is mainly pinyon, juniper, brush, and grasses. Effective rooting depth is 10 to 20 inches. Typically, the surface layer is grayish brown channery loam about 5 inches thick. The next layer is very channery loam about 4 inches thick. The underlying material is extremely flaggy light loam 7 inches thick. Hard sandstone is at a depth of 16 inches. Depth to sandstone ranges from 10 to 20 inches.

Included in this unit are small areas of Blazon channery loam, Forelle loam, Moyerson stony clay loam, Piceance loam, Redcreek fine sandy loam, and Yamac loam. Also included are small areas of soils that are similar to this Rentsac soil but are less than 10 inches deep and small areas of Rock outcrop. Included areas make up about 20 percent of the total acreage. The percentage varies from one area to another.

91-Torriorthents-Rock outcrop complex generally occurs in extremely rough and eroded areas on mountains, hills, ridges, and canyon sides. Slopes mainly face south. The native vegetation is mainly sparse shrubs and grasses with some pinyon and juniper trees. Effective rooting depth is 10 to 20 inches. This unit is 50 percent Torriorthents that have slopes of 15 to 65 percent and 30 percent Rock outcrop that has slopes of 35 to 90 percent. Included in this unit are small areas of Barcus channery loamy sand, Glendive fine sandy loam, Havre loam, Moyerson stony clay loam, Nihill channery sandy loam, Patent loam, Redcreek sandy loam, Rentsac channery loam, Sinkson gravelly sandy loam, and Blazon, Castner, and Clifterson channery loams.

Torriorthents are very shallow to moderately deep and are will drained and somewhat excessively drained. They formed in residuum and colluvium derived dominantly from sandstone, shale, limestone, and siltstone. Torriorthents are highly variable. No single profile of Torriorthents is typical, but one commonly observed in the survey area has a surface layer of pale brown channery loam about 3 inches thick. The underlying material is very pale brown channery loam, very channery loam, or fine sandy loam about 13 inches thick. Shale or sandstone is at a depth of 16 inches. Torriorthents are calcareous throughout. In some areas the surface layer is stony or flaggy. Rock outcrop consists of barren escarpments, ridge caps, and points of sandstone, shale, limestone, or siltstone. The escarpments are 3 to 50 feet thick and 25 to 2,500 feet long.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Disturbances due to construction of pipe lines will cause temporary increases in soil compaction as well as reductions in vegetation density, flow deflectors and sediment traps. An increase in soil compaction will restrict the amount of water able to infiltrate soils resulting in overland flows. Furthermore, larger volumes of runoff combined with loss of ground cover may increase the erosive potential of storm events. In addition, the loss of ground cover will likely leave soils exposed to eolian processes until mitigation is complete.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: Reclaim entire disturbed areas as stated in proposed actions. Additional mitigation practices such as surface pipelines or biodegradable netting are recommended for grades exceeding 70 percent (35º slope) and retaining less than 50 percent ground cover following construction. Utilization of biodegradable netting will help mitigate erosive impacts by wind and rain on steep exposed slopes. Construction of a surface pipeline will reduce surface disturbance at these locations.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: Following proper mitigation, the proposed actions will not compromise the health of upland soils.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The proposed line is primarily in pinyon-juniper woodland until it drops off into Dudley Gulch. The pinyon-juniper varies from sparse young age stands of primarily Utah juniper to mature dense stands of mixed pinyon and juniper. The bottom of Dudley Gulch is a fairly dense stand of basin big sagebrush with a sparse perennial grass understory. The corresponding ecological site is Foothill Swale.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The primary impact of the proposed action upon vegetation will be from physical destruction of vegetation on about 12 acres. If operations occur from May through November, truck traffic/pipeline construction on access roads/pipeline will create a large amount of airborne dust which will be deposited on vegetation adjacent to roads. These deposits will impair plant function and also limit/prevent use of the vegetation by native and domestic herbivores. In terms of plant community composition, structure and function, the principal negative impact over the long term would occur if invasive species or noxious weeds are allowed to establish and proliferate on the disturbed areas resulting from pad and access road construction.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There will be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: Promptly recontour and revegetate all disturbed areas with Native Seed Mix #3 listed in the table below. Eradicate all noxious weeds and invasive plants using materials and methods approved in advance by the Field Manager. The operator will be responsible for monitoring the occurrence of noxious and invasive species for a minimum of five years post construction.

Seed Mix #	Species (Variety)	Lbs. PLS per Acre	Ecological Sites
3	Western wheatgrass (Rosanna) Bluebunch wheatgrass (Secar) Thickspike wheatgrass (Critana) Indian ricegrass (Nezpar) Fourwing saltbush (Wytana) Utah sweetvetch	2 2 2 1 1 1	Gravelly 10"-14", Pinyon/Juniper Woodland, Stony Foothills, 147 (Mountain Mahogany)

	Alternates: Needle and thread, globemallow		

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial)*:* Plant communities in the project area meet the Standard and are expected to continue to meet the Standard following completion of the project.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: There are no BLM-administered aquatic communities that would have any reasonable probability of being directly or indirectly influenced by the project implementation. The nearest consolidated federal holding of riparian vegetation is over 15 miles downstream in Piceance Creek.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would have no reasonable probability of influencing distant aquatic habitats.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: The no-action alternative would involve no authorized use that would have potential to influence distant aquatic habitats.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): Because the proposed and no-action alternatives would have no reasonable probability of influencing aquatic habitats, application of the land health standards is not applicable.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The bulk of this project is encompassed by big game winter ranges (including critical severe winter ranges) that are occupied primarily from September through May. Road density in the project area exceeds the objective levels for big game winter and critical severe winter ranges established in the White River ROD/RMP (i.e., 3.0/1.5 miles per square mile). The proposed action does not require additional access for drips, but cleared pipeline right-of-ways often tend to support subsequent recreational vehicle use and results in unintended expansions of road and trail networks.

The proposed alignment involves vegetation communities that are occupied permanently or seasonally by a host of nongame mammals and birds. These species are common and widely distributed in extensive habitats throughout Piceance Basin and there is no evidence suggesting there are narrowly endemic or highly specialized species occurring in the project vicinity.

Raptor nest substrate associated with the project is composed of pinyon-juniper woodlands; the project would involve no cliff nest sites of golden eagle or red-tailed hawk. Woodland habitat

best suited for raptor nest use (i.e., mature stands) is confined to about 1100 feet of alignment extending west from the 36-3 well pad. Raptor nest habitat suitability is low on the remaining 2600 feet of woodland community to the west that is comprised of a narrow ridgeline of open-canopied woodland with a poorly developed understory dominated by surface shale. The proposed right-of-way parallels existing forms of disturbance (i.e., pipelines, roads) east of the 36-3 pad (about 4000 feet). Based on BLM's experience, woodland nesting raptors tend to avoid selecting nest sites in close proximity to maintained access roads and the utility of these stands for raptor nesting is believed to be substantially reduced. A BLM biologist inventoried suitable woodland habitat within 500 feet of the proposed alignment in early May and found no evidence of recent or past raptor nest activity.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Big game winter use of the project area would be complete by the time the proposed action is initiated.
Big game impacts associated with road density and use (i.e., behavioral avoidance and habitat disuse; increased energetic demands) received prominent address in the White River ROD/RMP. The proposed project entails no further development of permanent access (e.g., drips), but the pipeline corridor follows a gentle gradient ridgeline from the 36-3 location to Piceance Creek that would be predisposed to the development of unintended recreational or industrial access. Without provisions to deter subsequent vehicle use, this project would be expected to add about 1 mile of unimproved trail to deer severe winter range and add cumulatively to the current road and trail network.

Longer-term reductions in the local availability of woodland cover and woody forage (approximately 9 acres) are minor and discountable relative to surrounding resource base. Woodland clearing along existing roads and pipeline corridors would involve relatively narrow margins of woodland stands. Expanding the width of these previously cleared corridors by 50 feet would have no substantive affect on landscape composition or character for nongame bird or mammal use. Reclamation practices, including the recommended use of native seed and redistribution of large woody debris on the right-of-way, would retain the short term utility of cleared right-of-way for small mammal use and abbreviate the time required to reestablish native shrub growth. Woody debris would aid in diversifying ungulate grazing use intensity and moisture regimes along the corridor and provide effective cover patches where rodent seed caching behavior, an important mechanism for deciduous browse germination, could take place.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would have potential to adversely modify non-game habitat or disrupt raptor nesting activity or big game distribution.

Mitigation: After standard reclamation practices are applied to surface disturbance, large, woody material cleared from the Right-of-Way (ROW) should be redistributed on the ROW to aid in accelerating the redevelopment of foraging and nesting substrate for game and nongame species and deter subsequent vehicle use. The applicant should remain responsible for applying the means necessary to prevent future unauthorized vehicular use of this pipeline corridor.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): The landscapes associated with the proposed action currently

meet the land health standards for terrestrial wildlife communities. Project implementation would, with effective reclamation, have no lasting consequence on the utility or suitability of habitat as a source of forage or cover for local big game and nongame animal populations. Right-of-way clearing associated with the proposed action would remove a modest amount of woodland cover (about 9 acres) and basin big sagebrush habitat (1 acre) in the longer term, though the bulk of this clearing would occur adjacent to existing pipeline corridors and roads—localized situations where habitat utility for wildlife is presently compromised. Subsequent reclamation of these disturbed areas with native species would be consistent with proper successional processes and continued meeting of the land health standards for terrestrial game and nongame wildlife populations.

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, only those brought forward for analysis will be addressed further.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Access and Transportation			X
Cadastral Survey	X		
Fire Management			X
Forest Management			X
Geology and Minerals	X		
Hydrology/Water Rights			X
Law Enforcement		X	
Noise		X	
Paleontology			X
Rangeland Management	X		
Realty Authorizations	X		
Recreation			X
Socio-Economics		X	
Visual Resources			X
Wild Horses	X		

ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION

Affected Environment: BLM Road 1175 will be affected by this proposed action. The proposed action occurs within an area identified as limited to existing routes.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: BLM road 1175 will likely have additionally heavy traffic associated with the construction of the proposed pipeline. Road surface damage is likely to occur.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None.

Mitigation: Install wing fences across pipeline right-of-way after completion where pipeline corridor leaves BLM road 1175 to inhibit cross-country travel. Install signs on fences indicating that pipeline corridor is closed to motorized vehicular traffic.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

Affected Environment: The proposed pipeline involves approximately 0.58 miles of corridor clearing for an approximate total of 3.6 acres of disturbance in pinion/juniper. Due to the existing tree cover of pinion and juniper, there will be a need for the operator to clear these trees. If not adequately treated, these trees will result in elevated hazardous fuels conditions and remain on-site for many years. These accumulations of dead material are very receptive to fire brands and spotting from wind driven fires and can greatly accelerate the rate of spread of the fire front.

The National Fire Plan calls for "firefighter and public safety" to be the highest priority for all fire management activities. In the pinion, juniper, and brush types common on the White River Resource Area, roads and other man-made openings are commonly used as fuel breaks or barriers to control the spread of both wildland and prescribed fires. By reducing the activity fuels created from this proposal, future fire management efforts in this area should be safer for those involved and more effective.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: There will be approximately 3.6 acres of pipeline construction requiring the removal of pinion/juniper fuel. If not treated the slash and woody debris will create an elevated hazardous dead fuel loading which could pose significant control problems in the event of a wildfire. Additionally there would be a greater threat to public, and fire suppression personnel.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: Vegetative material brought back onto the pipeline should not exceed 2-5 tons/acre in any given location. Excess material should be distributed along sections of the pipeline that traverse through sagebrush habitats or less dense PJ sites or chipped and scattered along the corridor.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Affected Environment: Approximately 3,500 feet of pipeline would be constructed within pinyon/juniper woodlands. These woodlands are variable in age, density and composition. These stands were not considered as suitable for commercial use within our current land use plan. These stands do provide firewood, juniper posts and Christmas trees to the local market. Removal of the trees increases the opportunity for increasing populations of bark beetles. With the mitigation listed below the volume of material for insects would be decreased limiting the opportunity for an outbreak. There may still be increased numbers of bark beetles which could kill pinions immediately adjacent to the corridor.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Under the proposed action, approximately 4 acres of pinyon/juniper woodland would be removed. Following reclamation pinyon and juniper would invade the site and develop into a mature stand. Development of a mature stand is expected to occur over a 150 to 200 year period.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts.

Mitigation: Large woody material would be brought back onto the pipeline with tons per acre not exceeding 2-5 tons/acre. Smaller material would be scattered or chipped along the pipeline corridor.

HYDROLOGY AND WATER RIGHTS

Affected Environment: The proposed pipeline will cross Dudley Gulch near it's confluence with North Dudley Gulch. Dudley Gulch is an ephemeral drainage with a noticeable lack of riparian vegetation and very high width to depth ratio (aggrading). No water rights are necessary for the pipeline installation.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: see water section

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: none

Mitigation: see water section

PALEONTOLOGY

Affected Environment: The proposed pipeline is located in an area mapped as the Uinta Formation until it reaches the alluvial plain of Piceance Creek where it becomes Quaternary alluvium (Tweto 1979). The Uinta Formation has been classified as a Condition I formation by the BLM meaning it is known to produce scientifically important fossil resources.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: If it should become necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock formation to excavate the pipeline trench there is a potential to impact scientifically important fossil resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to fossil resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: 1. If it should be come necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock formation to bury the pipeline a paleontological monitor shall be present for all such excavations.

2. If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials, and contact

the authorized officer (AO). The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage.

RECREATION

Affected Environment: The proposed action occurs within the White River Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). BLM custodially manages the ERMA to provide for unstructured recreation activities such as hunting, dispersed camping, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing and off-highway vehicle use.

Approximately 1.6 miles of the project area has been delineated a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class of Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM). SPM physical and social recreation setting is typically characterized by a natural appearing environment with few administrative controls, low interaction between users but evidence of other users may be present. SPM recreation experience is characterized by a high probability of isolation from the sights and sounds of humans that offers an environment that offers challenge and risk.

Approximately .3 miles of the project area has been delineated a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class of Rural (R). Rural physical and social recreation setting is culturally modified to the point that it is dominant to the sensitive travel route observer. This may include pastoral, agricultural, intensively managed wildland resource landscapes, or utility corridors. Pedestrian or other slow moving observers are constantly within view of culturally changed landscape. There is strong evidence of designed roads and/or highways. Structures are readily apparent and may range from scattered to small dominant clusters including utility corridors, farm buildings, microwave installations, and recreation sites. Frequency of contact is moderate to high at developed sites and on roads and trails; moderate away from developed sites.
Rural recreation experience is characterized by a low probability of isolation from the sights and sounds of humans.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: If action coincides with hunting seasons (September through November) it will most likely disrupt the experience sought by those recreationists.

With the introduction of new well pads and roads, an increase of traffic could be expected increasing the likihood of human interactions, the sights and sounds associated with the human environment and a less naturally appearing environment.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No loss of dispersed recreation potential and no impact to hunting recreationists.

Mitigation: None.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located within a VRM class III area. The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would consist mainly of below surface facilities and not be visible to a casual observer. Above ground linear disturbance created by removal of woody vegetation would be visible from certain viewpoints for brief periods of time for casual observers traveling along several of the existing roads in the area. The proposed action should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes to the existing landscape would be moderate or less and the standards of the VRM III classification would be retained.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no additional impacts.

Mitigation: None

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: Cumulative impacts from oil and gas development were analyzed in the White River Resource Area Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS) completed in June 1996. Current development, including the proposed action, has not exceeded the foreseeable development analyzed in the PRMP/FEIS.

REFERENCES CITED:

Brogan, John

2005 Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of a Re-route in Sections 3, 4, and 9, Township 2S – Range 97W on the Exxon-Mobil Corporation's Proposed Love Ranch 16"Gas/Water Pipeline in Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Eagle, Colorado.

PBS&J

2005 Habitat Evaluation for the Proposed Piceance Creek Production Facility 16-inch Gathering Line; Prepared for ExxonMobil Production Company, U.S. West; PO Box 4358; Houston, Texas 77210-4358 by PBS&J; Project No. 461005.00; Document No. 05H026.

Tweto, Ogden

1979 Geologic Map of Colorado. United States Geologic Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, Virginia.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: None

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Nate Dieterich	Hydrologist	Air Quality
Tamara Meagley	Natural Resource Specialist	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources Paleontological Resources
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-Native Species
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species, Wildlife
Bo Brown	Hazmat Collateral	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
Nate Dieterich	Hydrologist	Water Quality, Surface and Ground Hydrology and Water Rights
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness
Nate Dieterich	Hydrologist	Soils
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management Specialist	Vegetation
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife Terrestrial and Aquatic
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Access and Transportation
Ken Holsinger	Natural Resource Specialist	Fire Management
Robert Fowler	Forester	Forest Management
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management Specialist	Rangeland Management
Penny Brown	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation
Keith Whitaker	Natural Resource Specialist	Visual Resources
Valerie Dobrich	Natural Resource Specialist	Wild Horses

Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record (FONSI/DR)

CO-110-2005-088-EA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)/RATIONALE: The environmental assessment and analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action have been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures (listed below) result in a Finding of No Significant Impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

DECISION/RATIONALE: It is my decision to approve the proposal to install two buried steel pipelines (16"gas & 4" water) and an additional communications cable in the same trench as described in the proposed action, with the mitigation outlined below and attached in the conditions of approval. This action is consistent with decisions contained in the White River Record of Decision/ Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP) approved July 1, 1997.

The EA recognizes that approximately 2200' of the proposed pipeline will occur within the Dudley Bluffs ACEC. The RMP imposes a No Surface Occupancy (NSO) stipulation on land use activities in the Dudley Bluffs ACEC, but provides that the AO may grant an exception or modification to it if, after an on the ground plant inventory is conducted, environmental analyses indicates that the nature or conduct of the action, as proposed or conditioned would not directly or indirectly affect the identified values of the ACEC. Based on the inventories performed and the analyses in the Environmental Assessment, the exception to this stipulation applies.

MITIGATION MEASURES:

1. Strictly adhere to reclamation procedures as stated in the proposed action.

2. Reclamation of surface disturbance resulting from authorized activities within ACEC's and RVAs shall use only locally gathered or genetic stock from locally gathered, native species. When locally gathered native species are not available, the impact of using non-local native species on the genetic integrity of the ACEC's and RVAs must be analyzed and mitigated through a site-specific environmental analysis.

3. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and

immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- Whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- The mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- A timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

4. The applicant shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by the proposed actions.

5. Reclaim entire disturbed areas as stated in proposed actions. Additional mitigation practices such as surface pipelines or biodegradable netting are recommended for grades exceeding 70 percent (35º slope) and retaining less than 50 percent ground cover following construction. Utilization of biodegradable netting will help mitigate erosive impacts by wind, rain and overland flows on steep exposed slopes. Construction of a surface pipeline will reduce surface disturbance at these locations. Pipeline shall have a minimum burial depth of no less than four feet in all alluvial/poorly consolidated colluvial material as stated in the White River ROD/RMP.

6. Promptly recontour and revegetate all disturbed areas with Native Seed Mix #3 listed in the table below. Eradicate all noxious weeds and invasive plants using materials and methods approved in advance by the Field Manager. The operator will be responsible for monitoring the occurrence of noxious and invasive species for a minimum of five years post construction.

SPECIES (VARIETY)	LBS. PLS/ACRE
Western wheatgrass (Rosanna)	2
Bluebunch wheatgrass (Secar)	2
Thickspike wheatgrass (Critana)	2
Indian ricegrass (Nezpar)	1
Fourwing saltbush (Wytana)	1
Utah sweetvetch	1

7. After standard reclamation practices are applied to surface disturbance, large, woody material cleared from the Right-of-Way (ROW) should be redistributed on the ROW to aid in accelerating the redevelopment of foraging and nesting substrate for game and nongame species and deter subsequent vehicle use. The applicant should remain responsible for applying the means necessary to prevent future unauthorized vehicular use of this pipeline corridor.

8. Install wing fences across pipeline right-of-way after completion where pipeline corridor leaves BLM road 1175 to inhibit cross-country travel. Install signs on fences indicating that pipeline corridor id closed to motorized vehicular traffic.

9. Vegetative material brought back onto the pipeline should not exceed 2-5 tons/acre in any given location. Excess material should be distributed along sections of the pipeline that traverse through sagebrush habitats or less dense PJ sites or chipped and scattered along the corridor.

10. If it should be come necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock formation to bury the pipeline a Paleontological monitor shall be present for all such excavations.

11. If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage.

NAME OF PREPARER: Keith Whitaker

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Caroline Hollowed

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: Duane Rhull
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 5/19/05

ATTACHMENTS: Location Map of the Proposed Action

Location of Proposed Action
CO-110-2005-088-EA